

Appln. No. 10/767,177
Amdt. dated March 14, 2005
Reply to Office Action of January 12, 2005

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An electrical connector, comprising:
 - a first electrical conduit assembly having a first conductive contact and an aperture in said first conductive contact;
 - a first fastener rotatably received in said aperture, said first fastener having a head member and a body portion, a threaded passageway extending from said head member to a distal end of said body portion, said distal end of said body portion being swaged to prevent said first fastener from being accidentally removed from said aperture;
 - a second electrical conduit assembly having a second conductive contact; and
 - a second fastener extending outwardly from said second conductive contact and adapted to be threadably received by said passageway of said first fastener.
2. (Original) An electrical connector according to claim 1, wherein
 - a washer is disposed between said first conductive contact and said head member of said first fastener.
3. (Original) An electrical connector according to claim 2, wherein
 - said washer is selected from the group consisting of flat washers and Belleville washers.
4. (Original) An electrical connector according to claim 1, wherein
 - said aperture is countersunk to facilitate swaging said first fastener to said first conductive contact.

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5. (Original) An electrical connector according to claim 1, wherein
a spacer having a first opening therethrough is disposed on said first fastener
proximal said distal end.
6. (Original) An electrical connector according to claim 5, wherein
said first opening is countersunk to facilitate swaging said first fastener to said spacer.
7. (Original) An electrical connector according to claim 1, wherein
a boot assembly is disposed on said first conductive contact.
8. (Original) An electrical connector according to claim 7, wherein
said boot assembly has a boot cap adapted to cover said head member of said first
fastener.
9. (Original) An electrical connector according to claim 8, wherein
said boot cap has a circumferential groove on an inner wall thereof, and said head
member of said first fastener has a circumferential recess adapted to receive said
circumferential groove of said boot cap.
10. (Original) An electrical connector according to claim 7, wherein
said boot assembly has a second opening therethrough adapted to receive said first
and second fasteners therethrough.
11. (Original) An electrical connector according to claim 1, wherein
said first fastener is made of brass.

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12. (Original) An electrical connector according to claim 5, wherein
said spacer is made of brass.
13. (Original) An electrical connector according to claim 7, wherein
said boot assembly is made of an elastomeric material.
14. (Original) An electrical connector according to claim 13, wherein
said elastomeric material is selected from the group consisting of PVC, TPR and
silicone.
15. (Original) An electrical connector according to claim 1, wherein
said head member is larger than said aperture.
16. (Original) A terminal for an electrical conduit, comprising:
 - a conductive contact having an aperture therein;
 - a conductive securing member having a support section and a first locking section;
said conductive securing member having a threaded through passageway adapted to
threadably receive another terminal;
 - said securing member support section being rotatably received in said aperture in said
conductive contact, said locking section being formed after said support section is
received in said aperture; and
 - a second locking section associated with said conductive contact to resist removal of
said conductive securing member from said conductive contact by engaging said
first locking section on said securing member.

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17. (Original) A terminal for an electrical conduit according to claim 16, wherein said locking section is swaged.
18. (Original) A terminal for an electrical conduit according to claim 16, wherein said conductive securing member support section is larger than said aperture.
19. (Original) A terminal for an electrical conduit according to claim 16, wherein a washer is disposed between said conductive contact and said conductive securing member support section.
20. (Original) A terminal for an electrical conduit according to claim 19, wherein said washer is selected from the group consisting of flat washers and Belleville washers.
21. (Original) A terminal for an electrical conduit according to claim 16, wherein said conductive securing member is made of brass.
22. (Currently Amended) A terminal for an electrical conduit [An electrical connector] according to claim 16, wherein a boot assembly is disposed on said conductive contact.
23. (Currently Amended) A terminal for an electrical conduit [An electrical connector] according to claim 22, wherein said boot assembly has a boot cap adapted to cover said support section of said conductive securing member.

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24. (Currently Amended) A terminal for an electrical conduit [An electrical connector] according to claim 23, wherein

 said boot cap has a circumferential groove on an inner wall thereof, and said support section of said conductive securing member has a circumferential recess adapted to receive said circumferential groove of said groove cap.

25. (Currently Amended) A terminal for an electrical conduit [An electrical connector] according to claim 22, wherein

 said boot assembly has an opening therethrough adapted to receive said conductive securing member.

26. (Original) A method of electrically and mechanically connecting first and second conduit assemblies, comprising the steps of

 inserting a first fastener in an aperture in the first conduit assembly;
 swaging a distal end of the first fastener to allow the first fastener to be rotatable within the aperture and to prevent accidental removal of the first fastener from the aperture;

 inserting a second fastener connected to the second conduit assembly in an internally threaded passageway of the first fastener; and

 rotating the first fastener to draw the second fastener into the internally threaded passageway of the first fastener, thereby creating a secure electrical and mechanical connection between the first and second conduit assemblies without unduly moving the first and second conduit assemblies.

27. (Original) A method of electrically and mechanically connecting first and second conduit assemblies according to claim 26, wherein

 rotating the first fastener comprises rotating a head portion of the first fastener.

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28. (Currently Amended) A method of electrically and mechanically connecting first and second conduit assemblies according to claim 27, and further comprising positioning a washer between the head portion of the first fastener and the first conduit assembly.
29. (Original) A method of electrically and mechanically connecting first and second conduit assemblies according to claim 27, wherein swaging the distal end of the first fastener comprises swaging the distal end of the first fastener to a conductive contact of the first conduit assembly.
30. (Currently Amended) A method of electrically and mechanically connecting first and second conduit assemblies according to claim 26, and further comprising positioning a spacer on a distal end of the first fastener before swaging the distal end of the first fastener; and swaging the distal end of the first fastener to the spacer.
31. (Currently Amended) A method of electrically and mechanically connecting first and second conduit assemblies according to claim 26, and further comprising covering a portion of the first conduit assembly with a protective boot assembly.
32. (Currently Amended) A method of electrically and mechanically connecting first and second conduit assemblies according to claim 31, and further comprising covering a head portion of the first fastener with a boot cap of the protective boot assembly.
33. (Currently Amended) An electrical connector, comprising:

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a first electrical conduit assembly having a first conductive contact and a first aperture in said first conductive contact;

a first fastener rotatably received in said first aperture, said first fastener having a head member and a body portion, a part [distal end] of said body portion being swaged to prevent said first fastener from being accidentally removed from said first aperture; and

a second electrical conduit assembly having a second conductive contact, said second conductive conduct being adapted to threadably engage said first fastener.

34. (Original) An electrical connector according to claim 33, wherein
said first fastener has a threaded passageway extending from said head member to
said distal end of said body portion.

35. (Original) An electrical connector according to claim 34, wherein
a second fastener extends outwardly from said second conductive contact, and is
adapted to be received by said first fastener threaded passageway.

36. (Original) An electrical connector according to claim 33, wherein
a portion of said body portion of said first fastener is threaded.

37. (Original) An electrical connector according to claim 36, wherein
an inner surface of a second aperture in said second conductive contact is threaded
and is adapted to receive said threaded portion of said first fastener.

38. (Original) An electrical connector according to claim 36, wherein

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a second fastener is substantially disposed in a second aperture in said second conductive contact, said second fastener has a threaded passageway therethrough adapted to receive said threaded portion of said first fastener.

39. (Original) An electrical connector according to claim 38, wherein said second fastener is press fit in said second aperture.